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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,744	01/10/2002	Yoshitoshi Kurose	FUJO 19.290	6509

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EXAMINER

SCUDERI, PHILIP S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,744	KUROSE, YOSHITOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Philip S. Scuderi	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,10,16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to applicant's communication filed on 23 March 2006.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of species I in the reply filed on 23 March 2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 3 and 14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 23 March 2006.

Drawings

Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 and 7 are objected to because of minor informalities. The claims recite "a modification information generating unit enabling to transmit", which should presumably read "a modification information generating unit enabled to transmit".

Claim 10 is objected to because of a minor informality. The semicolon at the end of line 3 should presumably be a colon.

Claim 16 is objected to because of minor informalities. The claim recites “an address modification device, further comprising:”, which should presumably read “an address modification device, comprising:”. Similarly, the claim recites “each of a plurality of communications devices, further comprising:”, which should presumably read “each of a plurality of communications devices, comprising:”.

Claim 17 is objected to because of a minor informality. The claim recites “address modification device, comprising:”, which should presumably read “an address modification device, comprising:”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16 claims that an address modification device “comprises” “transmitting and receiving communications data”. It is unclear how a device can “comprise” transmitting and receiving communications data. Similarly, it is unclear how a “plurality of communications devices” can “comprise” transmitting and receiving communications data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 6-13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129165 to Dingsor et al. (“Dingsor”).

Regarding claim 1, Dingsor teaches a communications device connected to a network with an address modification device, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4);

and

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of data in response to communications data with an address modified by the address modification device, to an original destination address of the communications data (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 2, Dingsor teaches a communications device connected to a network with an address modification device, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4);

an acquisition unit obtaining address modification information transmitted from the address modification device (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032); and

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a source address modification unit modifying a source address of data in response to the communications data with an address modified by the address modification device based on the address modification information (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 6, Dingsor teaches an address modification device, comprising:
a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4);
a destination address modification unit modifying a destination address of the communications data transmitted from a communications device (0025); and
a modification information generating unit enabled to transmit address modification information to a communications device with a modified address (0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 7, Dingsor teaches an address modification device (NAT machine 100), comprising:
a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4);
a destination address modification unit modifying a destination address of transmission data transmitted from a communications device (0025); and
a modification information generating unit enabled to transmit address modification information of the communications data to the relevant communications device when receiving a send request for the address modification information (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032).

Regarding claim 8, Dingsor teaches the address modification device (NAT machine 100) according to claim 6, wherein

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said destination address modification unit modifies the destination address of the communication data transmitted from a communications device connected to a network (figure 4, step S12; 0025) and

said modification information generating unit transmits information indicating the destination address before modification as modification information (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032).

Regarding claim 9, Dingsor teaches the address modification device (NAT machine 100) according to claim 6, wherein

said modification information generating unit adds information indicating the destination address before modification to a data section of the communications data and transmits the data (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032).

Regarding claim 10, Dingsor teaches a communications method in a network comprised of an address modification device and a plurality of communications devices, comprising:

modifying a source address of response data to transmission data with an address modified by the address modification device to an original destination address of the transmission data and transmitting the response data (figure 4).

Regarding claim 11, Dingsor teaches a communications method in a network comprised of an address modification device and a plurality of communications devices, comprising:

requesting the address modification device to transmit address modification information (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032); and

receiving the address modification information from the address modification device and modifying a source address of data in response to communications data with an address modified by the address modification information (0026).

Regarding claim 12, Dingsor teaches a communications method in a network comprised of an address modification device and a plurality of communications devices, comprising:

transmitting and receiving communications data and obtaining address modification information transmitted from the address modification device (figure 4; 0020; 0029; 0030; 0032); and modifying a source address of response data modified by the address modification device based on the modification information and transmitting the response data (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 13, Dingsor teaches a computer readable communications control program performing control of communications in a network comprised of an address modification device and a plurality of communications to enable a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4); and modifying a source address of response data to communications data with an address modified by the address modification device and transmitting the data (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 15, Dingsor teaches a computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for enabling a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4); and

modifying a source address of response data to communications data with an address modified by the address modification device and transmitting the response data (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 16, Dingsor teaches a communications system in which an address modification device for modifying an address of communications data received from another communications device and a plurality of communications devices for transmitting and receiving data in response to the communications data with a modified address are connected through a network, comprising:

an address modification device, further comprising:

transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4); and

a destination address modification unit modifying an address of the communications data (0025), and

each of a plurality of communications devices, further comprising:

transmitting and receiving communications data (figure 4); and

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data to the communications data with an address modified by the address modification device to an original destination address of the communications data (0020; 0026; 0032).

Regarding claim 17, Dingsor teaches a communications system in which an address modification device for modifying an address of communications data received from another communications device and a plurality of communications devices for transmitting and receiving data in response to the communications data with a modified address are connected through a network, comprising:

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an address modification device, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data

(figure 4);

a destination address modification unit modifying an address of the communications data (0025); and

a modification information generating unit generating and transmitting address modification information (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032), and

each of a plurality of communications devices, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving unit transmitting and receiving communications data

(figure 4);

an acquisition unit obtaining modification information transmitted from the address modification device (0020; 0029; 0030; 0032); and

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of response data to the communications data with an address modified by the address modification device based on the address modification information (0020; 0026; 0032).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129165 to Dingsor et al. ("Dingsor").

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Dingsor teaches the communications device according to claim 1. Dingsor does not expressly disclose assigning a process to a relevant communications processing unit of a plurality of communications processing units based on communications ports added to the communications data.

The communications processing units appear to be applications that respond to requests sent by a client. At minimum, the claimed communications processing units read on such applications.

The examiner takes official notice that it was well known in the art for servers to select applications to respond to client requests based on ports specified in the requests so that servers can properly route requests to the appropriate applications. For example, HTTP uses port 80, FTP uses port 21, etc. It would have been obvious to do so in the instant case for the same reasons.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip S. Scuderi whose telephone number is (571) 272-5865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton B. Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PS



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER